

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating an extended-format Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) packet comprising:

a RADIUS-compliant server for generating a VSA packet including ~~at least~~ a Vendor-Type field; and

wherein said VSA packet includes a Vendor-Extended-Type field if said Vendor-Type field contains a predetermined value wherein said Vendor extended type field is a designated portion of said packet of a predetermined length of bits for identifying a Vendor-Type.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by ~~a~~ said Vendor type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said VSA packet includes said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for generating an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) comprising:

determining whether an extended format VSA is desired;

if an extended format VSA is desired, then generating an extended format VSA containing a Vendor-Type field having a predetermined value indicating said VSA includes a Vendor-Extended-Type field else in said VSA and a Vendor-Extended-Type field.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by ~~a~~ said Vender type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

9. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for generating an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) comprising:

determining whether an extended format VSA is desired;

if an extended format VSA is desired, then generating an extended format VSA containing at least a Vendor-Type field having a predetermined value indicating

said VSA includes a Vendor-Extended-Type field elsewhere in said VSA and a said Vendor-Extended-Type field.

10. (Original) The program storage device of claim 9, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

11. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a said Vendor type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

12. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 11, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

13. (Original) A machine-readable medium including a Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) packet having a Vendor-Extended-Type that is 32 bits in length.

14. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein said VSA has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a said Vendor type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

15. (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 14, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor identification field having 32 bits; said a Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) comprising:

reading a Vendor Type field from said VSA;

determining whether said VSA Type field includes a predetermined value;

determining a received packet contains an extended format VSA responsive to a determination that said VSA type field includes said predetermined value;

if said received packet contains an extended format VSA, then reading an extended value contained in a Vendor-Extended-Type field; and

if said received packet does not contain an extended format VSA, then processing said received packet as normal.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said act of determining whether a received packet contains an extended format VSA is performed by examining said received packet to determine whether a Vendor-Type field contains a predetermined value.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a Vendor type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Typefield having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) comprising:

means for reading a Vendor Type field from said VSA;

means for determining whether said VSA Type field includes a predetermined value;

means for determining a received packet contains an extended format VSA responsive to a determination that said VSA type field includes said predetermined value;

means for reading an extended value contained in a Vendor-Extended-Type field if said received packet contains an extended format VSA; and

means for processing said received packet as normal if said received packet does not contain an extended format VSA.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further including means for determining whether a received packet contains an extended format VSA is performed

by examining said received packet to determine whether a Vendor-Type field contains a predetermined value.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further including means for generating a packet including a Vendor-Extended-Type field 32 bits in length.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, further including means for generating a VSA packet having a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a Vendor type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further including means for generating a VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

26. (Original) A method for receiving an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) by a machine comprising:

determining whether the machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA;

if said machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA, then reading an extended value contained in a Vendor-Extended-Type field; and

if said machine is not capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA, then processing said received packet as normal.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said act of determining whether machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA is performed by examining said received packet to determine whether a Vendor-Type field contains a predetermined value.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a Vendor type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

31. (Original) An apparatus for receiving an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) by a machine comprising:

means for determining whether the machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA;

means for reading an extended value contained in a Vendor-Extended-Type field if said machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA; and

means for processing said received packet as normal if said machine is not capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further including means for examining said received packet to determine whether a Vendor-Type field contains a predetermined value.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further including means for generating a packet including a Vendor-Extended-Type field 32 bits in length.

34 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further including means for generating a VSA packet having a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a Vendor type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further including means for generating a VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

36. (Original) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for receiving an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) comprising:

reading a Vendor Type field from said VSA;

determining whether said VSA Type field includes a predetermined value;

determining a received packet contains an extended format VSA responsive to a determination that said VSA type field includes said predetermined value;

if said received packet contains an extended format VSA, then reading an extended value contained in a Vendor-Extended-Type field; and

if said received packet does not contain an extended format VSA, then processing said received packet as normal.

37. (Original) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein said act of determining whether a received packet contains an extended format VSA is performed by examining said received packet to determine whether a Vendor-Type field contains a predetermined value.

38. (Original) The program storage device of claim 36, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

39. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 38, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a Vender type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

40. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 39, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

41. (Original) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for receiving an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) by a machine comprising:

determining whether the machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA;

if said machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA, then reading an extended value contained in a Vendor-Extended-Type field; and

if said machine is not capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA, then processing said received packet as normal.

42. (Original) The program storage device of claim 41, wherein said act of determining whether machine is capable of receiving a packet containing an extended format VSA is performed by examining said received packet to determine whether a Vendor-Type field contains a predetermined value.

43. (Original) The program storage device of claim 41, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

44. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 43, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a Vender type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

45. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 44, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.

46. (Original) An apparatus for generating an extended Vendor Specific Attribute (VSA) comprising:

means for determining whether an extended format VSA is desired;  
means for generating an extended format VSA containing at least a Vendor-Type field having a predetermined value and a Vendor-Extended-Type field if an extended format VSA is desired.,

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said Vendor-Extended-Type field is 32 bits in length.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said VSA packet has a field sequence of

a type field followed by a Length field followed by a Vendor Identification field followed by a Vender type field followed by an Internal length field followed by said Vendor-Extended Type field.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said VSA packet includes

said Type field having 8 bits; said Length field having 8 bits; said Vendor-identification field having 32 bits; said Vendor-Type field having 8 bits; said Internal Length field having 8 bits; and said Vendor-Extended-Type field having 32 bits.